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C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 000912

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/ERA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/22/2019

TAGS: PGOV PREL FUN IR IC AU

SUBJECT: AUSTRIA: EU TO DISCUSS AHMADINEJAD INAUGURATION AT  
GAERC

REF: A. 07/16/09 EUR/ERA EMAIL

¶B. VIENNA 895

Classified by: Economic-Political Counselor Philip Kaplan  
(acting) for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) Polchief discussed agenda items for the July 27-28 GAERC on July 22 with Klaus Famira, MFA European Correspondent. Famira said GAERC participants will discuss EU-Iran relations in light of the latest election and the crackdown on protesters. They will consider options for handling the inauguration for President Ahmadinejad. One option, Famira said, would be for EU embassies in Teheran to send deputies to the event, while another would be for Ambassadors to attend on the understanding that they will leave en masse if Ahmadinejad makes any "unacceptable" comments.

¶2. (C) Famira said the EU will also consider whether to informally obstruct the travel of Iranian officials involved in the crackdown on post-election demonstrations. Under one proposal, EU missions in Teheran would be advised to delay the processing of visa applications from certain Iranian officials. Famira said GAERC participants are not expected to make any decisions regarding tightening Iran sanctions, nor are they planning to discuss Iran's nuclear program in depth. He said participants are also not expected to discuss the detention of UK embassy personnel; he noted that the UK employees have been released, while acknowledging that a French citizen remains in custody.

¶3. (U) Famira said participants will also discuss Iceland's decision to seek EU membership. Some member states will likely argue that the EU should complete the Lisbon Treaty process before initiating accession talks with Iceland. Others are expected to raise concerns about fisheries and a possible perception of unfairness if Iceland is moved ahead of longstanding EU aspirants like Turkey, Croatia and Albania.

¶4. (U) GOA views on the question of U.S. participation in the EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia were reported reftel B.  
HOH